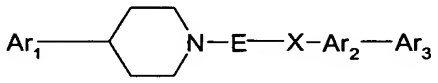
In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 13-14. Please amend claims 1, 3-5, and 7-12 as follows. Please add new claim 15.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

Ar_1 is:

(i) phenyl, naphthyl or phenyl fused by a C_{3-8}cycloalkyl; or

(ii) heterocyclyl selected from the group ~~list~~ consisting of:

monocyclic radicals and fused polycyclic radicals, wherein said radicals contain a total of from 5-14 ring atoms, wherein said radicals contain a total of from 1-4 ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur, and wherein individual rings of said radicals may be independently saturated, partially unsaturated or aromatic, provided that at least one ring is aromatic;

where Ar_1 is independently substituted by at least one R^1 group and is independently substituted by 0-3 R^3 groups;

Ar_2 is a phenyl group, a 5-6 membered heteroaromatic group or a bicyclic heteroaromatic group, each of which are optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the list: C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-6}acyl, C_{1-6}acyloxy, amino, C_{1-4}alkylamino, di-C_{1-4}alkylamino, $-(CH_2)_nOH$, $-(CH_2)_nNR_xR_y$, $-O(CH_2)_nO(CH_2)_mOR^2$, $-O(CH_2)_nC(O)NR_xR_y$, $-O(CH_2)_nCN$, C_2alkenyl, $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R^2$, $-OSO_2(CH_2)_pCH_3$, $-OSO_2NR_xR_y$ and $-CO_2(CH_2)_pCH_3$;

Ar_3 is:

(i) phenyl, naphthyl or phenyl fused by a C_{3-8}cycloalkyl; or

(ii) heterocyclyl selected from the group consisting of monocyclic radicals and fused polycyclic radicals, wherein said radicals contain a total of from 5-14 ring atoms, wherein said radicals

Express Mail Label No.
EV 332064147 US

contain a total of from 1-4 ring heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur, and wherein individual rings of said radicals may be independently saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic, providing that at least one ring is aromatic;

wherein Ar_3 is optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the group consisting of: hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkenyloxy, C_{1-4}perfluoroalkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonylamino (such as $-NHSO_2CH_3$, $-NHSO_2CH(CH_3)_2$), fluoroC_{1-4}alkylsulfonylamino (such as $-NHSO_2CH_2CF_3$), C_{1-4}alkylcarbonylamino, fluoroC_{1-4}alkylcarbonylamino, halogen (such as chlorine), nitrile, nitro, C_{1-4}perfluoroalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylcarbonyl, fluoroC_{1-4}alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminocarbonyl, di-C_{1-4}alkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulfoxy;

E is -C_{1-6}alkylene-;

X is $-CONR^2-$ or $-NR^2CO-$;

wherein

R^1 is $O(CH_2)_nOR^2$;

R^2 is C_{1-4}alkyl or hydrogen;

R^3 is halogen, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R_x and R_y are independently C_{1-4}alkyl or hydrogen;

n and m are independently 1-4; and

p is 0-4;

or a physiologically acceptable prodrug, salt or solvate thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar_1 is phenyl, naphthyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl or indazolyl.

Express Mail Label No.
EV 332064147 US

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein E is n-butylene.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein X is $-NR^2CO-$.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar_2 is phenyl or a 5-6-membered heteroaromatic group.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein Ar_2 is optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar_3 is phenyl, pyridyl or thienyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 7 wherein Ar_3 is substituted by halogen ~~(e.g. chloro)~~, C_{1-4}perfluoroalkyl ~~(e.g. trifluoromethyl)~~, nitrile, C_{1-4}acyl ~~(e.g. acetyl)~~, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl ~~(e.g. methylsulfonyl)~~ or C_{1-4}alkylsulfonylamino.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein R^1 is $-OCH_2CH_2OR^2$.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

Ar_1 is phenyl, naphthyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl or indazolyl; where Ar_1 is independently substituted by at least one R^1 group and is independently substituted by 0-3 R^3 groups;

Ar_2 is phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl or imidazolyl, each of which are optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the group ~~list~~; C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkoxy;

Express Mail Label No.
EV 332064147 US

Ar_3 is phenyl, pyridyl or thienyl, wherein Ar_3 is optionally substituted by 1-4 groups independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen ~~(e.g. chloro)~~, C_{1-4}perfluoroalkyl ~~(e.g. trifluoromethyl)~~, nitrile, C_{1-4}acyl ~~(e.g. acetyl)~~, C_{1-4}alkylsulfonyl ~~(e.g. methylsulfonyl)~~ and C_{1-4}alkylsulfonylamino;

E is n-butylene;

X is $-NR^2CO-$;

wherein

R^1 is $-OCH_2CH_2OR^2$;

R^2 is C_{1-4}alkyl or hydrogen;

R^3 is halogen, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl; and

n is 1-4.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of ~~list~~:

4-Hydroxymethyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide ~~(Example 3)~~;

4'-Cyano-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide hydrochloride ~~(Example 5)~~;

2-(4-Cyano-phenyl)-4-methyl-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide, hydrochloride ~~(Example 7)~~;

2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4-methyl-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide ~~(Example 8)~~;

2',4'-Chloro-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide ~~(Example 9)~~;

4'-Chloro-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide ~~(Example 10)~~; and

Express Mail Label No.
EV 332064147 US

4'-Methanesulfonylamino-biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (4-{4-[1-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl]-piperidin-1-yl}-butyl)-amide ~~(Example 12)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. (Canceled)

14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A method for the treatment of a condition resulting from elevated circulating levels of LDL-cholesterol in a mammal in need thereof, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

Express Mail Label No.
EV 332064147 US